

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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EU-25

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

General Requirements for Veterinary Certificates 2004

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Report Highlights:

This report lists the general principles of certification for animal origin products. It is intended to help to avoid the certification problems that have been reported to us in the past few months in various EU countries.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

The general principles for certification are set out in Council Directive 2002/99/EC. (Council Directive 2002/99/EC laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption, Official Journal L 18 of 23 January 2003, see http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_018/l_01820030123en00110020.pdf). This directive is part of the hygiene package and is commonly referred to as hygiene 4. This was the one part of the hygiene package that was already adopted in 2002. All Member States have to implement this directive by January 1, 2005. The other three regulations and one directive of the hygiene package were adopted at the end of last month. A report will follow when they become available in an electronic edition of the Official Journal.

Directive 2002/99/EC states that consignments of products of animal origin need to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate meeting a set of general requirements. These general requirements apply to all types of animal product certificates.

General principles of certification (ANNEX IV of the directive)

1. The representative of the competent authority of dispatch issuing a certificate to accompany a consignment of products of animal origin must sign the certificate and ensure that it bears an official stamp. This requirement applies to each sheet of the certificate if it consists of more than one.
2. Certificates must be drawn up in the official language or languages of the Member State of destination and those of the Member State in which the border inspection takes place, or be accompanied by a certified translation into that language or those languages. However, a Member State may consent to the use of an official Community language other than its own.
3. The original version of the certificate must accompany consignments on entry into the Community.
4. Certificates must consist of:
 - (a) a single sheet of paper; or
 - (b) two or more pages that are part of a single and indivisible sheet of paper; or
 - (c) a sequence of pages numbered so as to indicate that it is a particular page in a finite sequence (for example, "page 2 of 4 pages").
5. Certificates must bear a unique identifying number. Where the certificate consists of a sequence of pages, each page must indicate this number.
6. The certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch.

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on certification of products of animal origin can be found at <http://www.useu.be/agri/certification.html>... E-mail: AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov

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Report Number	Title	Date Released
E34012	New EU- 25 Veterinary Certificates for Transshipments	05/14/04
E34005	Certification for Personal Meat and Dairy imports	04/29/04

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